

## The Hawaiian Star.

(Daily and Semi-Weekly.)

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MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1898.

### FREE LABOR.

An important meeting was held yesterday forenoon with regard to Representative Gear's bill to "prohibit the specific or penal enforcement of contracts for personal services," or in point of fact to do away with labor contracts.

The line which the bill takes is practically that in a circular letter from Lorin A. Thurston addressed to the politicians and newspaper men of Honolulu, and dated from the Cochran Hotel, Washington, D. C., December 23, 1897. This letter was discussed in these columns, and the whole question of contract labor was argued pro and con in a series of articles. The morning and evening contemporaries of The Star argued the question also, and there seems a consensus of opinion that contract labor should come to an end.

Upon the matter little light has been shed by the planters or the planting interests in the way of public expression of opinion. One gentleman, representing large sugar interests has, however, addressed one of the members of the House, and says that "It is the general feeling of the planters of the Islands that it would not be wise to do away with the contract system while our future is uncertain; those of the planters who are not Royalists are, of course, willing to do without contract labor, if they have annexation—but it is a difficult matter if we are to float along in the uncertain way that has existed for some years back—as the contract system is a valuable factor in keeping control of the labor of the country."

This is at all events an opinion expressed on the other side to what the entire press here has urged. The Star after giving great care and study to the question does not believe that the contract system with its penal clause is as vitally necessary to the prosperity of the great industry of the country as people are inclined to think. Mankind in the mass is conservative, and to uproot a custom which is the legacy of years is bound to meet with strong opposition, and the arguments are always that the ruin of the industry or of the country will follow.

When slavery was abolished in the Southern States, the cry was that the Southern plantations would be ruined, yet in spite of the loss of the slave labor, and in spite of defeat in war, the South is today more prosperous than ever it was in the days of slavery. When Alexander of Russia freed the serfs, the whole of Russian agriculture was to be destroyed and every one was to be ruined, but the black soil of the Russian plains still brings forth its millions of bushels of wheat, only that it is planted and reaped by free laborers instead of by serfs.

The Star in common with many keen thinkers and careful observers, does not believe that any cataclysm will follow upon the passage of Representative Gear's bill. The moral effect of the bill in the United States will be good, and though at the present moment it might have small effect upon the Annexation Treaty, it will have effect upon the Reciprocity Treaty should we not obtain the Annexation Treaty this session.

It must be remembered that already three-fourths of the labor on the plantations is free labor. It is after all only one-fourth of the labor that is under the penal penalty. The final clause is one which stands in the way of United States labor coming here. As the bill provides, there will be no interference with existing contracts and it will not take effect at once; the action will be gradual.

Upon a vote taken by the Central Committee of the American Union Party yesterday, it was decided to instruct their Representatives to legislate for the removal of the penal clause at this session. So Representative Gear's bill will probably be pushed vigorously.

### NO TRUTH IN IT.

The Rev. D. P. Birnie repudiates the sentiments which he is reported to have made public last Saturday in another journal. So far as Mr. Birnie is concerned his skirts are apparently clear. But whoever is responsible for the statement that the white man cannot hold his own in mechanical and industrial arts here, or that whites lose

their vigor after arrival, should be called down as talking nonsense.

The writer knows whereof he speaks. He knows men who have worked as mechanics in this country for thirty years, for twenty years, and for twelve years, and their vigor in middle age is as strong as it would be in any climate. It would not be pleasant to the gentlemen to publish their names, but to any one seeking information they could easily be supplied. There are white men on these Islands who have been doing vigorous work after passing the sixtieth year at laborious, hard work.

As to families, there are plenty which have been raised of healthy, stalwart women and men, none of whom have ever put a foot out of the Islands till maturity. These have married and have healthy offspring of the second generation. After maturity they have gone elsewhere and have shown themselves as athletes the equals and superiors of those who have been brought up entirely within the temperate zone.

But it is not alone in actual bodily vigor that the offspring of whites, resident here, show that there is little or no deterioration. Of the young men and young women, who have spent their early years on these Islands, there are many who go abroad to the colleges of the United States. Their record shows well. It was only the other day at one of the best law schools in the States that a Hawaiian from youth stood at the head of his class, and the class lists of many universities will show that mental vigor has not gone from the Hawaiian settler. Far from being an effete and worn set of people, the whites of Hawaii are vigorous, energetic and determined, and their present position politically is sufficient answer to any calumny that they are not.

Statements such as have been made are entirely erroneous, and are calculated to injure the Islands.

The nomination of Ex-Judge Kapoikali to the seat in the Senate, rendered vacant by the death of W. Y. Horner, is quite satisfactory, and shows what nonsense the opponents of the Republic talk when they say that Hawaiians do not have an opportunity of political distinction under the present system. Judge Kapoikali has been for many years a prominent figure in Maui, and is highly popular with all classes. He is a typical Hawaiian, well educated, speaks English fluently, and has been connected with affairs of State and with mercantile ventures for many years. It is to be hoped he will be elected.

### TO RENT.

The A 1 fireproof two story brick building on lower Fort street known as the Union Ice Company's building. Apply to  
HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC CO.

## Stocks and Bonds

At present in our hands  
FOR SALE.

HAWAIIAN SUGAR CO.

PIONEER MILL CO.

OAHU SUGAR CO.

EWA PLANTATION CO.

KAHUKU PLANTATION CO.

WAILUKU SUGAR CO.

PAIA PLANTATION.

INTER-ISLAND S. N. CO.

HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC CO. and

OAHU RY. CO., 6 per cent Bonds.

The Hawaiian Safe Deposit and Investment Company.

GEO. R. CARTER, Mgr.

Office in rear of Bank of Hawaii.

CHAS. HUSTACE,

212 KING STREET. TEL. 119  
Between Fort and Alakea Sta.

DEALER IN

Groceries and Provisions.

Fresh California Roll Butter and Island Butter always on hand.

Fresh Goods received by every Steamer from San Francisco.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

OPERA HOUSE.

Saturday, March 19.

EILEEN O'MOORE,

Will Give Her

GRAND FAREWELL CONCERT.

Musical Director, Professor Oscar Herold.

Box plan now open at Wall, Nichols' Co.

## Timely Topics.

March 10, 1898.

We are reasonably sure of having rapid transit in Honolulu during the coming year. The public is not content to stand still. Corporations and public carriers must keep abreast with the times to satisfy the people. This is an axiom that we always try to bear in mind, so when we ordered a supply of the

## COLORADO ELECTRIC OIL

for fast running electric machinery we felt that we were fulfilling our part as a business firm by being the first to secure this celebrated lubricant.

A very excellent recommendation for this Oil is the fact that it is used exclusively by the Hawaiian Electric Company of Honolulu. This will commend it to all plantations equipped with electric plants. For density of viscosity and high fire test it cannot be excelled.

We also carry a large stock of

## Black Asphaltum

for painting smokestacks, water pipes, etc.

## Axle Grease

in all sizes of containers, from a small tin to the twenty-five pound tub.

HAWAIIAN HARDWARE CO.  
FORT ST., opp. Spreckels' Bank.

## Refrigerators.

\$7.50 to \$75.

Something that is absolutely necessary in this climate if economy with the table is in question.

## Why do we

sell so many GURNEY CLEANABLE REFRIGERATORS? We have just received another carload of them, which makes 300 within a year.

Where do they all go?

## Because

you can now have ten pounds of ice a day for \$3 a month, which used to cost you \$4.50

## And because

you can now buy a GURNEY CLEANABLE REFRIGERATOR for a fourth less than you could buy one of an inferior make a little while ago.

## Also,

you can rent of us one of these for a moderate monthly payment, and if you keep it up for six months the Refrigerator is yours.

## In substance,

we have done the lion's share to put a necessity, and a first class one at that, within the reach of all, and we are doing our whole trading on the same business principles.

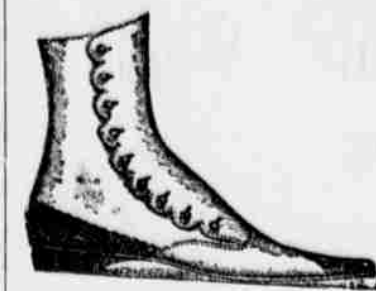
## Are you with us?

W. W. DIMOND & CO.

VON HOLT BLOCK.

## Let Us Give

You an idea of what we carry in Misses' Spring Heel Boots.



Misses' Glaze Kid Button, \$1.25 and \$1.50.

Misses' B. D. Kid Button, \$2.25 and \$2.50.

Misses' Cloth Top Kid Button, \$2.50 and \$3.

Misses' Chrome Kid Button, \$3 and \$3.50.

This gives you an assortment that no other store in town can show you.

## MCINERNY'S SHOE STORE.

FORT STREET, HONOLULU.

## A Strong Testimonial.

Hamakua Plantation,  
Paauilo, Hawaii, H. I.

Mr. J. G. Spencer,  
Pacific Hardware Company,  
Honolulu, H. I.

DEAR SIR: The Secretary Disc Plow I purchased from you is giving us satisfaction. We are using it to plow under a crop of lupins. They are three feet high and very thick. Your plow turns them completely under, at the same time plowing the land fourteen inches deep.

I feel satisfied that with this plow the draft for the same quantity and depth of work is as six to eight. That is, with the old plow, to do the same work, it takes eight good mules; with your plow it takes only six, and they are less tired at night.

Please send me another plow by the first schooner leaving for this.

You are at liberty to use this in any way you may see fit.

Yours truly,  
A. LIDGATE.

## GREAT SALE!

# Tremendous Bargains!

In Goods Saved from the Big Fire Which Took Place in London in December, 1897.

L. B. Kerr was there at the time, and with ready cash bought up all that was in good condition, and now offers them

## AT BARGAIN PRICES.

Fine Dress Goods at prices to surprise you.

Colored Bordered Handkerchiefs, 20c, 25c, and 35c per dozen

Fine Cambric Hem Stitched Handkerchiefs, 50c per dozen.

Fine Striped Dimity, pure white, 5c per yard.

Fine Organdies, 12½c per yard.

Fine Printed Dimity, new patterns, 15 yards for \$1.

Fine Printed English Lawns, 15 yards for \$1.

Valenciennes Laces, new patterns, 25c for one dozen yards.

## All Other Goods at Proportionate Prices.

## Do Not Miss This Opportunity.

Sale commences Wednesday, March 9, 1898.

## Millinery Department.

This Department is replete with New Styles direct from Paris and London. You can get the Latest Parisian Styles without going to Paris.

L. B. KERR, IMPORTER.  
QUEEN STREET,